



# *Walpole Fire Department*

## *Emergency Services*

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To: Board of Appeals  
From: Paul C. Barry, Deputy Fire Chief  
Date: April 23, 2020  
RE: Tetra Tech  
Proposed 40B off Summer Street

The Fire Department has reviewed the Tetra Tech initial review letter, we offer the following comments:

For clarity, the original comment from Tetra Tech is italicized, our comment is bold.

*1) For the purposes of clarity and coordination we request future submittals include proposed street names on all sheets and that those names be coordinated with the Walpole Building Department to confirm acceptability prior to the next submission.*

**Multiple proposed street names conflict with existing Walpole street names. Town By-laws Chapter 505 Street Names and Numbers informs the applicant of the street name submittal process.**

**§ 505-1 Street names.**

**Street names shall be assigned as provided for in this section.**

**A. The Town Engineer shall maintain an up to date list of all street names being used in the Town for both accepted and unaccepted streets.**

**B. The police and fire chiefs or their designees shall provide street names for proposed streets. They shall maintain a list of approved, unused street names. As part of the subdivision approval process they shall also act on the proposed names, either from the Town maintained list or proposed by the applicant. Names shall be chosen to avoid sound-alike or similar street names. A subdivision plan shall be submitted to the Planning Board. The Planning Board shall submit the applicants proposed name(s) to the Police and Fire Departments for review and approval. The police and fire chiefs or their**

designees shall provide a street name within 35 days of receipt of an application therefore.[Amended 5-11-2005 SATM, Art. 31]

C. The Board of Selectmen shall act as the Street Naming Committee for proposed name changes for existing streets. They shall adopt a procedure for implementing street name changes. A public hearing shall be held before any street name is changed. Names shall be chosen to avoid sound-alike or similar street names.

D. Police and Fire Chiefs or their designees shall advise the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen as to the public safety issues raised by any proposed new or changed street name. [Amended 5-11-2005 SATM, Art. 31]

*2)Similarly, we request unit numbers be added and included on all sheets.*

**We concur with this statement, as it provides a consistent number for the specific site and aides in public safety response. Additionally, we request apartment numberings shall be consistent with similar structures in Town and be done in consultation with the Fire Department .**

*6)Several locations within the development do not provide convenient access for emergency vehicles and require fire trucks and larger emergency vehicles to back up which is not typical for new developments. We recommend the applicant coordinate with Walpole Fire Department to determine requirements for access and make every possible accommodation. In addition, the Fire Truck Turning Plan shows several locations where the fire truck travels over the curb which should be fixed in future submittals.*

**We concur with this statement and had submitted similar language in our February 20, 2020 letter to the Board. Additionally, we request the applicant confirm the Turn Radius Analysis page 37 complies with The Massachusetts State Fire Code 527 CMR 1, specifically 18.2.3.4.8 Travel in the Opposing Lane. The use of the opposite travel lane is prohibited in the design of all new fire apparatus access roads.**

*7)The 16-foot entry boulevard lane widths do not meet minimum 20-foot widths required by National Fire Protection (NFPA) Standards. Reduction to required minimum lane widths requires approval from the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) who in this case is the Walpole Fire Chief. We recommend the Board require the applicant to document the Fire Chief's approval of the proposed lane widths prior to completing its review.*

**527 CMR1 sec 18.2.3.4.1.1 Fire department access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6.1 m). Fire department access roads constructed in the boulevard-style shall be allowed where each lane is less than 20' but not less than 10' when they do not provide access to a building or structure.**

*12)The proposed housing units and parking are located very close to the roadways. We recommend the applicant consider incorporating raised crosswalks (speed tables) as a means of regulating travel speeds through the development.*

**The fire department does not support the recommendation to install raised surfaces in the roadway. We request an alternative method be sought/designed to regulate travel speed. 527 CMR 1 sec 18.2.3.4.7 Traffic Calming Devices. The design and use of traffic calming devices shall be approved by the AHJ.**

*13)Does the proposed geometry of Balsam Lane cul-de-sacs preclude incorporation of a center island?*

**We do not support a recommendation to install center islands in cul-de-sacs.**

*15)We recommend the applicant consider a slightly thicker roadway pavement section including at least 4.5 inches of bituminous concrete given the scale of development, density and anticipated traffic volumes.*

**We support this recommendation, 527 CMR 1 sec 18.2.3.4.2 Surface. Fire department access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads (80,000) of fire apparatus and shall be provided with an all-weather driving surface.**

The applicant must comply with 527 CMR 1, The Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code, as it relates to this project. If the applicant desires to deviate from 527 CMR 1, we request they submit a waiver stating each request. It would be beneficial to all involved if these would be submitted during this process, but at a minimum we request this be a condition of approval.

If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.